Direct train from Lucknow to Jaipur

†1492. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that facility of direct train from Lucknow to Jaipur *via* Alwar has been withdrawn;

(b) whether it is causing a lot of inconvenience to the common passengers;

(c) whether train from Lucknow to Alwar would again be started;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. When Jodhpur and Varanasi were connected by Metre Gauge, Jodhpur-Varanasi Marudhar Express used to connect Jaipur-Lucknow *via* Bharatpur and not *via* Alwar. When the gauge conversion took place in phases, the train was shifted to Broad Gauge and it ran *via* Alwar-Mathura-Agra Cantt. till Bandikui-Bharatpur Broad Gauge section got commissioned. The train has since been restored to run *via* Bharatpur-Agra Fort-Tundla which is shorter by 86 kms. and, avoids reversal at Agra Cantt.

At present, 9269/9270 Porbandar-Motihari Express (weekly) and 5715/5716 Ajmer-Kishangarh Garib Nawaj Express,(weekly) connects Lucknow-Alwar-Jaipur *via* Alwar-Delhi.

An increase in the frequency of 5715/5716 Ajmer-Kishangarh Garib Nawaj. Express from weekly to tri-weekly has been announced in Railway Budget 2007-2008 which will provide additional connectivity between Lucknow-Alwar-Jaipur.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Neither operationally feasible nor desirable.

Gauge conversion between Karaikudi and Manamadurai

1493. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) on putting into use of newly laid broad gauge conversion track between Rameswaram and Manamadurai, what are the number of trains proposed between Rameswaram to Chennai *via* Manamadurai and Madurai and back;

(b) when the only pending stretch of broad gauge conversion between Karaikudi and Manamadurai would be over to complete the whole link between Rameswaram and Chennai *via* Pudukottai; and

(c) whether there would be an extra effort to complete this pending stretch at the proposed date to speed up the process of execution ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 8495/8496 Bhubaneswar-Rameswaram Express (weekly) *via* Chennai Egmore-Manamadurai has been announced in the Railway Budget 2007-08.

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Karaikudi-Manamadurai section is targeted for completion during 2007-08. The necessary efforts are being made to expedite progress of project.

Outsourcing of work

1494. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of work outsourced in the last two years;

(b) what methods were adopted for outsourcing the work; and

(c) how many educated youth were provided employment by outsourcing the above functions alongwith the details thereof, category-wise, General, O.B.C., S.C., and S.T. beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Outsourcing of certain non-core activities have been resorted to. Among other, these include:—

1. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails and welding of rails.
2. Maintenance of Diesel Generators, Water Coolers, Window type AC Plants, roof mounted package units of AC coaches, Static Invertors, UPS.
3. Enroute cleaning of coaches, mechanized cleaning of rakes at depot premises, pest and rodent control, refilling and maintenance of fire extinguishers.
4. Garbage disposal, rag picking, cleaning of toilets.
5. Sale of tickets to a limited extent.

(b) The outsourcing was done mainly through tender/selection procedure as per extant policy.

(c) Such records are not maintained in this Ministry.

Creation of new posts in RPF

†1495. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of increasing incidents of terrorists attacks on trains, there is any proposal to create new posts in Railway Protection Force or make new postings in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.